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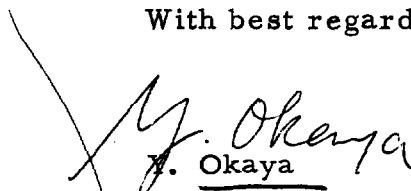
Professor J. Lederberg
Stanford Medical Center
Stanford School of Medicine
Palo Alto, California 94304

Dear Professor Lederberg:

As you have heard from Dr. H. Cole, I will join the Faculty of the Chemistry Department of Stony Brook as Professor in September 1967. Stony Brook is a new campus of State University of New York and the state wants to make it "the Berkeley of the East", which probably reflects the inferiority complex of New Yorkers. I have been interested in the determination of the configurations of optical active molecules with specific interest in their absolute configurations. Specially, I have been interested in the work on diastereoisomers in connection with g-l-chromatography and had a number of discussions with Dr. J. W. Westley of your group. I now believe that we should carry out systematic studies on the molecular configurations of the diastereoisomers. I was informed by Cole of your kind cooperation on the chemical side of the project.

Now that I will join an academic institution, I have to scrounge government grants for such a study. It seems to me that NASA might be the first choice with NIH the second, since the study has implication on the exploration of the extra-terrestrial life. I have not done any deal with the government for the last six years (before that time I was at Penn State) and I am not too familiar with them any more. I would appreciate your comments on the appropriate branches of these agencies to which I should direct my interest.

With best regards,


Y. Okaya

YO:cmr

OKAYA, Y.